

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, March 5th, 2018

MINUTES

Hampden Town Office

Attending:

*Councilor, Terry McAvoy Chair
Mayor Ivan McPike
Councilor Mark Cormier
Councilor David Ryder
Councilor Dennis Marble
Councilor Stephen Wilde
Councilor Greg Sirois*

*Town Manager Angus Jennings
Town Atty Ed Bearor
Rec Director Shelley Abbott
DPW Director Sean Currier
Rec Comm member Jane Jarvi
TIF consultant Noreen Norton*

Chairman McAvoy called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

1. Meeting Minutes

- a. February 20th, 2018** – *Motion by Mayor McPike seconded by Councilor Ryder to approve the minutes. Approved 7-0.*

2. Review & Sign Warrants – *Warrants were reviewed and signed.*

3. Old Business

- a. Discussion of validity of February 20, 2018 vote to recommend to Council to rescind the vote of October 3, 2016 to authorize cutting, stumping and grinding and site preparation at the Lura Hoyt Pool site but to retain authorization for permitting for additional parking, potential recreational facilities, and associated infrastructure – requested by Councilor Sirois** – *Chairman McAvoy introduced the topic for discussion and turned it over to Councilor Sirois. Councilor Sirois said that the motion approved at the Services Committee did not include reference to “site preparation.” Upon inquiry to the Town Manager Councilor Sirois became aware of extensive emails leading to a change in the February 20th agenda wording. He called into question the validity of the February 20 vote. Town Atty. Ed Bearor agreed that the motion had been changed and wasn’t exactly what came out of Services. He said that the motion as initially proposed was accurate to the best of the Town Manager’s knowledge. However he said there are no rules that govern this. He said that if this body wishes to revise a motion it has the ability to do so. He said that it’s probably not good practice to change a motion from what is included in the minutes. The Council*

could choose to change a motion at a meeting, and could choose to revisit a previous motion. Councilor Wilde said he had not ever provided any motion language to the Manager, and Atty. Bearor said he thought the Manager was trying to straddle the waters. Councilor Sirois said that all Councilors were at the Services meeting and know what was referred. He made a motion to send the matter back to the Services Committee to reconsider, and Mayor McPike seconded the motion.

Councilor Cormier said he thinks this is an attempt to get more people to vote on the question. Councilor Sirois said he was on a scheduled vacation for the Finance Committee vote so could not attend and this had been known to the Mayor and Manager in advance. He said it went to Council, the motion was changed, and it was still voted down. Councilor Marble said he thought we were ready to move forward on this matter three months ago. There are substantive areas of disagreement, but layers on top of that is parliamentary maneuvers that run a risk of damaging the issue even more. He said he would not support the motion, saying that the Council needs to decide on substance if it supports recreation.

Chairman McAvoy read a statement into the record (attached to these minutes), noting that Committees don't make policy, they make referrals to Council, and that changes from Committee referrals to Council votes happen with all Committees.

Councilor Ryder expressed agreement with Councilor Marble. He said it's not worth a fight, and may need to wait for a new Council to come on board. He said the issue has become more of a problem than it's worth.

Councilor Wilde said a motion to reconsider has to be made by someone who was on the winning side of the vote. Chairman McAvoy said that's not what we're doing. The Committee would have to modify its prior vote. Any motion is subject to change until the vote is taken. Councilor Sirois said that changes are to be made in the presence of all Councilors.

A vote was called on the motion and the motion failed 2-5 with Councilor Sirois and Mayor McPike in favor.

4. New Business

- a. Recommend to Council to amend the FY18 Sewer Budget to increase budgeted expenses by \$73,500 to authorize the expenditure of revenues projected in FY18, but not included in**

the expense budget, for the purpose of supporting engineering services for sewer capital projects and support for creating a sewer Fiscal Sustainability Plan and CSO Master Plan – **referral from Infrastructure Committee** – Motion by Chairman McAvoy seconded by Councilor Marble to refer the proposed sewer budget amendment to the Town Council. Councilor Ryder said he'd like to see the funds go into a sewer reserve account. He made a motion to that effect, seconded by Councilor Wilde. Manager Jennings raised concern that putting the funds into reserve instead of the operating budget would cost an extra 4-6 weeks before the funds could be put to use. He said that the purpose of the funds – for a CSO Master Plan and Fiscal Sustainability Plan needed for eligibility for Sewer SRF borrowing – was documented extensively at last week's Infrastructure Committee meeting and he understood the Councilors supported the efforts being made to secure the best possible borrowing rates. Councilor Marble said he also recalled, like Councilor Ryder, that the Infrastructure Committee's referral was to put funds in reserve, but is not looking to be inefficient. Manager Jennings agreed that this was his recollection as well and said that the wording on tonight's agenda may have been in error. However his initial request had been to put the funds in operating budget so work could be authorized on the sewer plan, and on engineering related to the proposed sewer capital projects. Councilor Ryder said he didn't realize all that work had to be done now. Mayor McPike said he's concerned about getting the Fiscal Sustainability Plan done since that could improve interest rates on borrowing by 2 points. Councilor Ryder rescinded his motion. Chairman McAvoy made a motion to recommend item 4.a as written. The motion was seconded by Councilor Marble, and passed 7-0.

- b. **Recommend to Council to amend the 60-79 revenue line in the FY18 budget to reflect anticipated collection of \$53,305 in unbudgeted sewer connection fees and to increase budgeted expenses by \$53,305 to authorize the expenditure of FY18 projected revenues, but not included in the expense budget, for the purpose of supporting mitigation of anticipated Fiberight/Coastal flow impacts on existing infrastructure, and engineering services for other sewer projects – referral from Infrastructure Committee** – Motion by Chairman McAvoy seconded by Councilor Marble to refer the proposed sewer budget amendments to the Town Council. Motion passed 7-0.
- c. **Town Manager's report on priorities identified at the February 10th, 2018 Goals & Objectives Session** – Manager Jennings provided each Councilor the survey sheet they had completed along with his tabulation of what they reported, and asked that they proof

check it for accuracy and provide him any revisions by the end of this week. He said he will report on what the findings show about the Council's priorities – not just goals – at the next meeting.

5. Public Comment – None.

6. Committee Member Comments – None.

7. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted –
Angus Jennings, Town Manager